

Message Text

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73

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

NEA-10 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /140 W

----- 010438

R 291350Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7319

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0644

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, ILO, FI

SUBJ: FINNISH WORKER CANDIDACY FOR ILO GOVERNING BODY

1. FINLAND MAY SEEK "SCANDINAVIAN" WORKERS' SEAT ON ILO GOVERNING BODY AT NEXT INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE. FINLAND'S CANDIDATE WOULD BE KARI TAPIOLA, ITS WORKER REPRESENTATIVE AT JANUARY 1974 ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL MEETING. THE SOURCE WHO SUPPLIED THIS INFORMATION, WHO HAS LONG EXPERIENCE IN FINNISH LABOR MOVEMENT, EMPHASIZED IT WAS STILL HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL. HE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT FINNS HAVE NEVER TAKEN A TURN IN THE SCANDINAVIAN ROTATION BECAUSE THEY HAVE LACKED CANDIDATES WITH SUFFICIENT LANGUAGE SKILLS. THUS TAPIOLA, WHO HAS NO SUCH HANDICAPS, IS DUE SUPPORT OF OTHER SCANDINAVIANS.

2. IF TAPIOLA DOES GAIN SEAT ON GOVERNING BODY IT WILL PROBABLY SIGNAL A MORE POLITICAL APPROACH TO THE ILO THAN THAT FOLLOWED BY SCANDINAVIAN WORKER DELEGATES IN THE PAST. HE IS KNOWN TO FAVOR EXTENSIVE REFORM OF ILO STRUCTURE.

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3. DEPARTMENT HAS AMPLE BIO DATA ON TAPILOA WHO HAS BEEN INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF FINNISH CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (SAK) FOR YEAR AND HALF AND WAS A LEADER GRANTEE TO THE UNITED STATES LAST YEAR. HE DOES NOT HAVE A UNION BACKGROUND. HIS FATHER IS A SENIOR FINNISH DIPLOMAT. BEFORE HE JOINED SAK TAPILOA WORKED AS A REPORTER FOR THE FINNISH BROADCASTING COMPANY AND AS POLITICAL SECRETARY FOR THE THEN FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE NOW SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PRIME MINISTER KALEVI SORSA. HE IS CLOSE TO LEFT-FRINGE OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND HAS BEEN ACTIVE ON SUCH ISSUES AS VIETNAM AND CHILE. WE THINK TAPIOLA (28) HAS THE CAPACITY TO MATURE WITH INCREASING RESPONSIBILITY AND HE HAS SHOWN SIGNS OF THIS IN RECENT MONTHS. NONETHELESS, MANY OF OUR CONTACTS INVOLVED WITH INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS REGARD HIM WITH SUSPICION.
KREHBIEL

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